

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00 NSAE-00
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AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
AMCONSUL ADANA
AMCONSUL ISTANBUL
AMCONSUL IZMIR
USMISSION NATO
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES
EUCOM
USCINCEUR
CINCUSAFE
USDOCOLANDSOUTHEAST IZMIR
DIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 5254

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, TU
SUBJECT: NEGOTIATIONS FOR GOVERNMENT CONTINUE--OPPOSITION LASHES OUT

1. JUSTICE PARTY (JP) CHAIRMAN DEMIREL, NATIONAL SALVATION PARTY (NSP) CHAIRMAN ERBAKAN, AND NATIONALIST ACTION PARTY (NAP) CHAIRMAN TURKES MET JULY 12 FOR APPROXIMATELY FIVE HOURS IN A CONTINUING EFFORT TO WORK OUT THE DETAILS OF THEIR CONSERVATIVE COALITION. DEMIREL TOLD PRESS AFTER MEETING THAT THE THREE LEADERS HAD REACHED AGREEMENT ON THE PRINCIPLES OF GOVERNMENT OPERATION AND THAT THEY WOULD DISCUSS ITS MAKE-UP JULY 13.
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DEMIREL ALSO SAID HE WOULD MEET WITH PRESIDENT KORUTURK MORNING JULY 13 TO REVIEW STATUS OF EFFORTS TO FORM A COALITION GOVERNMENT AND AT NOON HE WOULD RESUME HIS NEGOTIATIONS WITH ERBAKAN AND TURKES.
2. PRESS ACCOUNTS OF THE NEGOTIATIONS AMONG THE THREE LEADERS DIFFER WIDELY WITH SOME PAPERS CLAIMING SHARP DISAGREEMENT AND OTHERS REPORTING THAT NEGOTIATIONS ARE ALL BUT COMPLETED.

ALTHOUGH DOMESTIC ISSUES AND RELATIONSHIPS ARE THE PRIMARY ISSUES BEING DISCUSSED, SEVERAL PAPERS REPORT THAT THE COALITION POSITION ON THE CYPRUS ISSUE HAS ALSO BEEN AN IMPORTANT POINT OF DISPUTE. ACCORDING TO THESE STORIES, THE JP HAS FINALLY SUCCEEDED IN CONVINCING THE OTHER COALITION PARTNERS TO ACCEPT A BLAND, NONCOMMITTAL POSITION ON CYPRUS. THE THREE PARTIES HAVE ALSO REPORTEDLY AGREED THAT THEY WILL SEEK TO ENLIST THE OPPOSITION IN SUPPORT OF WHATEVER MOVES THEY MAKE ON THE CYPRUS PROBLEM.

3. THE TRUE STATUS OF THE COALITION NEGOTIATIONS IS NOT KNOWN BUT SUFFICIENT PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE TO SPARK STRONG PUBLIC STATEMENTS FROM THOSE OPPOSING THE RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF A CONSERVATIVE COALITION. REPUBLICAN PEOPLE'S PARTY (RPP) CHAIRMAN ECEVIT TOLD HIS PARTY CAUCUS JULY 12 THAT THE HAND HE HAD EXTENDED TO THE OTHER PARTY LEADERS HAD BEEN REJECTED AND "WE CAN NO LONGER SAVE THEM." ECEVIT SAID THAT DARK DAYS LOOMED AHEAD FOR THE COUNTRY. HE PREDICTED THAT THIS PERIOD OF DARKNESS WOULD NOT LAST LONG, HOWEVER, AND THAT THE THREE COALITION LEADERS WOULD "DIG EACH OTHER'S GRAVES" AND "BE BURIED IN THE DARK PAGES OF HISTORY". CONSERVATIVE TERCUMAN CRITICIZED ECEVIT'S HARSH WORDS CLAIMING THEY WERE SIMILAR TO THOSE USED BY THEN-RPP LEADER INONU PRIOR TO THE 1960 MILITARY INTERVENTION WHEN HE TOLD PRIMIN MENDERES, "NOT EVEN I CAN SAVE YOU NOW."

4. ANOTHER STRONG ATTACK ON THE PROSPECTIVE GOVERNMENT WAS MADE BY HALIL TUNC, PRESIDENT OF TURK-IS, TURKEY'S LARGEST LABOR CONFEDERATION. TUNC TOLD JOURNALISTS THAT ONLY SOLUTION
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FOR NATION IS AN RPP-JP COALITION AND THAT IF THE NEW THREE-PARTY CONSERVATIVE COALITION SHOULD WIN A VOTE OF CONFIDENCE, HE "WOULD CONSIDER IT HIS PATRIOTIC DUTY TO RESIGN FROM THE SENATE (TUNC IS A PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTEE SENATOR) AND LEAD A GENERAL STRIKE UNTIL THE GOVERNMENT FALLS." TUNC SAID THAT TO SHOW HE WAS NOT BLUFFING, HE WAS ORDERING THAT STRIKE PREPARATIONS BEGIN IMMEDIATELY. TUNC ALSO CALLED ON OTHER "CONSTITUTIONAL INSTITUTIONS" (BY WHICH HE MEANT THE COURTS, UNIVERSITIES, AND MILITARY, HE EXPLAINED TO JOURNALISTS) TO FULFILL THEIR RESPONSIBILITY TO PROTECT THE REPUBLIC.

5. TURKISH RADIO MID-DAY NEWS JULY 13 CARRIED STATEMENT BY CHIEF OF THE TURKISH GENERAL STAFF, SEMIH SANCAR, ASSERTING THAT THE TURKISH ARMED FORCES ARE DETERMINED TO "DEFEND THE TURKISH REPUBLIC AND TURKISH DEMOCRACY. HE CRITICIZED IRRESPONSIBLE AND PROVOCATIVE STATEMENTS IN THE PRESS AND ON RADIO WHICH COULD "HARM THE FUTURE OF THE FREE DEMOCRATIC PARLIAMENTARY REGIME IN TURKEY" AND CALLED FOR IMMEDIATE LEGAL ACTION AGAINST THOSE RESPONSIBLE. SANCAR PONDEROUSLY CONCLUDED HIS STATEMENT BY SAYING, "I CONSIDER IT USEFUL TO STATE TO THE TURKISH NATION THAT THE TURKISH ARMED FORCES, THE SOLE GUARANTOR OF THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY AND OF DEMOCRACY, WILL NEVER PAY HEED TO ADVENTURERS AND THAT THE ARMED

FORCES, WHOSE PRIMARY DUTY IS TO DEFEND THE COUNTRY, SHOULD NOT BE OCCUPIED WITH SUCH MATTERS."

6. COMMENT: SANCAR'S STATEMENT IS A CLEAR WARNING TO WOULD-BE ADVENTURERS THAT THE MILITARY IS NOT ABOUT TO JOIN IN EFFORTS TO THWART THE FORMATION OF A NEW CONSERVATIVE COALITION GOVERNMENT. TUNC IS THE PRIMARY TARGET. IT IS ALSO POSSIBLE, HOWEVER, THAT SANCAR WAS REACTING TO ECEVIT'S STATEMENT WHICH CONTAINS WHAT COULD BE INTERPRETED AS A VEILED APPEAL FOR MILITARY INTERVENTION. REGARDLESS OF ITS IMMEDIATE TARGET, THE STATEMENT SHOULD SERVE TO DAMPEN DOWN, AT LEAST TEMPORARILY, RUMORS (WHICH THRIVE HERE DURING TIMES OF POLITICAL UNCERTAINTY) THAT THE CURRENT POLITICAL SITUATION IS THE CAUSE OF GREAT UNREST WITHIN THE MILITARY AND COULD RESULT IN INTERVENTION.
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